

MRS. BENJ. BREWSTER.

DAUGHTER OF A FORMER SENATOR FROM MISSISSIPPI.

A Woman of Varied Experiences in Life, Who Was Characterized by Beauty and Grace.

Philadelphia Times: The sudden death of Mrs. Benjamin Brewster was quite a shock to society here and in Washington, where her engaging manners and charming character were well known. She had been ill but a short time, being stricken with that fatal disease which has every winter month for its own, but it peculiarly the fatal malady of this blustering, changeable month of March. Mrs. Brewster, formerly Mrs. Delonde, was the daughter of Robert J. Walker, a very noted Pennsylvanian, who left his mark on the politics of this country in the ante-bellum days, and it was but not to see Washington society under two very different social regimes--once as the daughter of the Secretary of the Treasury or an administration in which the haughty pro-slavery element was predominant and at Washington bowed to the southern influence, and again, a generation later, as the wife of a Cabinet officer in the Arthur administration, when the old society and old slavery were utterly disappeared.

It was through one of the many kind personal acts of the late Gen. Grant while President, that she became the daughter of an old Secretary of the Treasury, then, like many of the ancient regime, in reduced circumstances, was given a position in the department of which her father once was at the very head. It was while there that Mrs. Delonde met the distinguished Pennsylvanian lawyer who became her husband, Mrs. Brewster was a woman of much personal beauty, inheriting her father's dark features and hair, as well as his intelligent vivacity and grace, and was a brilliant entertainer, as her long residence at the capital, amid varied circumstances, gave her the grace and facility which wins admiration and success.

Robert J. Walker was one of those sons of Pennsylvania who gained great eminence without his native birth, and by expounding and pressing public measures antagonistic to his dear traditions in political economy. He was born in Northumberland, in 1801, being nearly contemporary with Gen. Cameron, and entered the University of Pennsylvania, where he graduated in 1819. From there he drifted to Pittsburgh, where he studied law and entered on practice.

He early interested himself in politics, and was chairman of the Democratic committee corresponding to our present State committee when only twenty-two years of age. A great Jacksonian, he brought about the action of the House of Representatives in 1824 which nominated Gen. Hickory. Two years later he moved to Mississippi, drawn thither by a love match. From there forward he became more of a Southerner than any one to the plantation born, and all his great fortunes were made with the political fortunes of the South. He had a great penchant for advancing Northern promises, and early professed to Walker after his coming to the State, but he steadily refused until 1836, when he was chosen a Senator in Congress, taking his seat in the second session of the Twenty-fourth Congress, and thirty-five years old, at the close of the iron-hearted Jackson's career as President. He served Mississippi in this place until his appointment by Polk, ten years later, to the head of the Senate. In the Senate he was a recognized leader.

He was a bitter opponent of protection, and fought the tariff of 1842 with all his resources, political and legal, which were considerable. Thence passed despite his antagonism, but he bided his time, and schemed and dreamed until 1846, when he defeated the pet theory of Pennsylvania, his native State, with a peculiar force and vengeance, having the pleasure of seeing Buchanan, then premier of the Polk administration, and who voted for the 1842 tariff when in the Senate, keep conservatively quiet on the subject, and Vice-President Dallas, another Pennsylvanian, give the vote which secured the advancement of his economic ideas. The revelation against this anti-Pennsylvanian policy was what brought Gen. Cameron to the front in our State politics. Gen. W. Woodworth was the regularly elected nominee for United States Senate to succeed Buchanan, with the latter's good will and gentlemanly turned Mugwump, hold the campaign with the aid of Whig votes.

He was elected. He fought Walker's tariff of '46, and stood up manfully for his State interests, arranging an alliance by an exhibition of Cameronian diplomacy with the Whig Secession, which defeated all attempts of Buchanan, Walker and the Polk administration to control the patronage of this State. Judge Woodward was nominated for the Supreme bench at the successor of Henry Baldwin, but Senator Cameron had the Whig Senators defeat him, and afterward compelled the Polk administration to select Judge Robert C. Grier, who long adorned the bench of the court of last resort.

It may be added that after the defeat of the tariff of '42 the Whigs swept the country in the Congressional elections. Winthrop was elected the Speaker at the next Congress because he had voted for the Whig president, Abraham Lincoln was a member of it; so was Andrew Johnson. Seed of dissension were sown among the Whigs at this Speaker's election, which, though covered over until after 1848, really disrupted the party. Gen. Cameron, urged by Walker and the administration, of which he was the compelling spirit, voted in the Senate for the tariff of '46. In 1848 two years later, Pennsylvania's electoral vote sealed his doom. Had it been given to him and Butler they would have elected him. Robert J. Walker's influence was then, the profile of events all round the proslavery political horizon. His report adverse to the tariff of 1842 was an able document, exhaustive, searching and scathingly severe in its political arraignment of the protectionists. How Buchanan could immerse himself in foreign policy, apparently oblivious of his people, which indirectly held his life, and his promise of the 1844 campaign under his vivid and potent reminiscences of the Whigs, to carry out the conclusions of one of the mysteries in the political domain.

It was Walker's political activity that formed the combination which nominated Polk at Baltimore in 1844 and defeated Van Buren. He was up to the hilt in the revolution, and his influence was a powerful speech to listen to on the body, which he suggested in doing over the argument.

THE AGE OF CONSENT.

MOVEMENT BY THE WOMEN OF TENNESSEE.

To Raise It to Eighteen--Face in Relation to the Question to Make the Heavens Blush.

To the Editors of the Appeal: You refer in your paper of Wednesday last to the fact that Massachusetts is pressing the question upon her Legislature of raising "the age of consent" from ten to eighteen years, and to secure the passage of an act next January, raising the age of consent for young girls to at least--we should say eighteen years. I am glad to say that our ever alert and active State President of the Woman's Christian Temperance Union of Tennessee, Mrs. Lide Meriwether, has taken up this matter in hand, and it will be placed before our Legislature next year with thousands of names appended. Mrs. Meriwether's long study of this question renders her peculiarly fitted for the work, and we have both sought every means of gaining the favor of our women. Will this not stir our mothers when they read that "The age of consent is ten years in twenty-four States and Territories, twelve years in four or five, and D-l-w-e-e fixes the age at seven years?"

STORY TO SMALL AND JONES.

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